

## Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 NEA-10 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-07

SAJ-01 EB-07 USSS-00 VO-03 INSE-00 SCA-01 AF-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 /117 W

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P R 081710Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBSSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1415

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINS, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ESCAPE FROM BERLIN PRISON

REF: USBERLIN 1399

1. SUMMARY: FOUR WOMEN TERRORISTS REMAIN AT LARGE. POLICE HAVE NOT HOT CLUES AND ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO PIECE TOGETHER HOW ESCAPE WAS MANAGED. OPPOSITION AND SOME OF PRESS HAVE CALLED FOR JUSTICE SENATOR'S RESIGNATION, BUT GOVERNING MAYOR HAS CAUTIONED AGAINST DRAWING POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES TOO HASTILY. POLICE EXPECT TO RECEIVE REINFORCEMENTS FROM LAENDER EARLY NEXT WEEK TO ASSIST IN SEARCH, AND ALLIES WILL TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT NO STATUS DIFFICULTIES ARISE. GDR HAS, HOWEVER, PROTESTED AGAINST POLICY CHECKS ON  
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TRAINS AND WATERWAYS WHICH ALLIES HAD AUTHORIZED,

END SUMMARY.

2. POLICE HAVE NO HOT LEADS ON WOMEN TERRORISTS. PROBABILITY IS THAT THEY ARE HIDING IN PRERANGED LOCATION OR LOCATIONS IN BERLIN. SENATOR FOR INTERIOR NEUBAUER TOLD SPECIAL MEETING OF SENATE JULY 8, HOWEVER, THAT SMALL POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT WOMEN MADE WAY BY S-BAHN OR U-BAHN TO EAST BERLIN AND THEN TO SCHOENEFELD WHERE THEY MIGHT HAVE TAKEN FLIGHT TO MIDDLE EAST. NEUBAUER REPORTED THAT NUMBER OF LAWYERS FOR TERRORISTS PRISONERS HAD BEEN OBSERVED RECENTLY MAKING USE OF SCHOENEFELD-ATHENS-DEN FLIGHT. S-BAHN AND U-BAHN SERVICE TO EAST BERLIN IS CLOSED BETWEEN 2 AND 5 IN THE MORNING. SENATE SENT TELEX TO EAST BERLIN ON POLICE NET AT 7 MORNING OF JULY 7 ADVISING OF ESCAPE AND REQUESTING ASSISTANCE. THERE IS THUS SMALL CHANCE THAT WOMEN COULD HAVE MADE TRIP EITHER BEFORE S-BAHN AND U-BAHN CLOSED AT 2 OR JUST AFTER THEY OPENED AGAIN AT 5.

3. ON MORE LIKELY SUPPOSITION THAT ESCAPEES ARE STILL IN WEST BERLIN, POLICE ARE CARRYING OUT SEARCHES SIMILAR TO BUT LESS MASSIVE THAN THOSE UTILIZED AT TIME OF LORENZ KIDNAPPING. SEARCHES ARE SOMEWHAT LESS GENERAL IN NATURE AND MORE DIRECTED AT SPECIFIC TARGET LOCATIONS THIS TIME, HOWEVER, ALLIES QUICKLY AUTHORIZED POLICE TO ENTER REICHSBAHN STATIONS, BOARD S-BAHN AND LONG-DISTANCE TRAINS AND EXAMINE DOCUMENT OF TRAVELLERS IN SAME MANNER AS WAS DONE IN MARCH 1975 AND ALSO TO CHECK WATERWAY TRAFFIC. GDR, WHICH HAS NOT RESPONDED TO POLICE TELEX REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, SENT TELEX OF ITS OWN FROM MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TO SENATE FOR JUSTICE JULY 8 DEMANDING THAT POLICE STOP "ILLEGAL SEARCHES". GDR DEPUTY VISIT COMMISSIONER UELLE ALSO PROTESTED SEARCHES TO SENATE VISITS TO COMMISSIONER KUNZE DURING MEETING ON PROPOSED NORTHER CROSSING POINT JULY 8 (SEPTEL). POLICE HAVE ALSO TOLD US THEY HAVE REQUESTED 65 ADDITIONAL POLICEMEN FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN FRG TO AID IN INVESTIGATION. ALLIES HAVE REAFFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO POLICE THAT THERE REINFORCEMENTS, WHO MAY COME AS EARLY AS NEXT MONDAY OR TUESDAY, MUST, AS IN PREVIOUS CASES, TRAVEL TO BERLIN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND WITHOUT WEAPONS, WEAR ONLY CIVILIAN CLOTHES OR BERLIN POLICE UNIFORMS WHILE IN CITY, AND SERVE UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF BERLIN POLICE PRESIDENT. ALLIES HAVE ALSO CAUTIONED AGAINST UNNECESSARY PUBLICITY. POLICE ARE IN CONTACT WITH BUNDES KRIMINALAMT (BKA)

IN FRG BUT SENAT DOES NOT AT THIS POINT EXPECT BKA OFFICIALS TO COME TO CITY. ALLIES HAVE TOLD POLICE THAT WE WOULD FACILITATE TRANSPORT OF SPECIFICALLY EQUIPPED POLICE VEHICLES TO CITY BY MILITARY DUTY TRAIN.

4. POLICE STILL HAVE NO FIRM INDICATIONS ABOUT HOW ESCAPE WAS MANAGED. THERE ARE CERTAIN THAT FOUR MUST HAVE HAD ASSISTANCE. PROBABLY THERE WAS SOMEONE WAITING TO MEET THEM ON OTHER SIDE OF WALL WHEN THEY GOT OUT OF PRISON. SOMEONE MUST ALSO HAVE PROVIDED KEY. POSSIBLE SUSPECTS INCLUDE ONE OR MORE PRISON GUARDS, LAWYERS, WHO VISITED PRISONERS ON DAY OF ESCAPE, OR SOME OTHER VISITOR TO PRISON SUCH AS SOCIAL WORKER. THERE IS AS YET, HOWEVER, NO CLEAR EVIDENCE.

5. LOCAL CDU HAS CALLED FOR RESIGNATION OF SENATOR FOR JUSTICE OXFORD, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRISONS, AND PRESS REPORTED THAT CDU LEADER LORENZ PRESENTLY IN US ON OFFICIAL TOUR, SUPPORTED RESIGNATION DEMAND IN PHONE INTERVIEW. SPRINGER PRESS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HARSH IN CRITICISM NOT ONLY OF SENATE'S PRISON MANAGEMENT BUT ALSO OF ALLEGEDLY SOFT ATTITUDE TOWARD LEFTIST IDEOLOGY. DIE WELT CLAIMED THAT "WHAT HAPPENED IN BERLIN COULD ONLY HAPPEN BECAUSE LEADING POLITICIANS ARE MORE AFRAID OF THEIR LEFTIST CRITICS THAN OF TERRORIST ACTIONS", AND CONCLUDES "IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY FOR THE PRESENT SENATE TO RESIGN." INDEPENDENT TAGESPIEGEL AGREES THAT ESCAPE IS RATHER SCANDALOUS EVENT FROM WHICH LEGAL AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE TO BE DRAWN, BUT SUGGESTS THAT CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE PREMATURE UNTIL RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION ARE AVAILABLE.

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6. BOTH GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ AND OXFORD HAVE ISSUED STATEMENT AGREEING THAT ESCAPE EXTREMELY SERIOUS BUT HAVE CAUTIONED AGAINST RASH POLITICAL CONCLUSIONS. OXFORD MADE CLEAR AT THIS PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 7 THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO RESIGN, AND SCHUETZ, WHO INTENDS TO DELAY START OF HIS VACATION AT LEAST ANOTHER DAY OR TWO, TOLD SENATE JULY 8 IN STATEMENT LATER RELEASED TO PUBLIC THAT OXFORD HAS HIS "PERSONAL AND POLITICAL TRUST" AND DESERVES PUBLIC RESPECT AS HE ATTEMPTS "TO CARRY OUT DIFFICULT DUTY IN A BAD HOUR."

7. ON CDU DEMAND, LEGAL COMMITTEE AND PERHAPS ALSO INTERIOR COMMITTEE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL MEET JULY 9. SENATE IS THUS FAR RESISTING, HOWEVER, CDU CALL

FOR SPEICIAL PLENARY SESSION OF HOUSE TO DEBATE SECURITY  
QUESTION. ACTINGHEAD OF CHANCELLERY SCHULTZE TOLD  
SENAT LIAISON OFFICERS JULY 8 THAT ESCAPE COULD WELL BE  
CITED BY CDU/CSU TO JUSTIFY ITS DEMAND TO STRENGTHEN  
BUDNDESTAG'S NEW ANTI-TERRORISM LAW WHN THAT BILL IS  
DEBATED BY BUNDESRAT JULY 16,( USBERLIN 1372). THIS  
COULD BE EPSECIALY SO IF INVESTIGATION SUGGESTS ESCAPE  
WAS FACILITATED BY PRISONES' LAWYERS SICE DEGREE OF  
CONTROL OF PRISONER -LAWYER CONTACTS HAS HITHETO BEEN  
ONE OF MAIN DIFFERNCES IN GOVERNING COALTION AND  
OPPOSITON APPROACHES TO TERRORIST PROBLEM, AND CDU/CSU  
IS UNLIKELY TO RESIST TEMPTATION TO PLAY TO POLITICAL  
GALLERIES WITH " WE TOLD YOU SO" TAUNT ON EVE OF FRG  
ELECTION CAMPAIGN.  
GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, TERRORISTS, FUGITIVES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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